

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Office of Legislative Counsel

OLC 79-1826/A
13 July 1979

Honorable Jamie L. Whitten, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On 10 October 1978, the Director of Central Intelligence forwarded to former Chairman Mahon a set of Guidelines and Procedures for the Issuance of Compartmented Clearances to the Legislative Branch. I am enclosing a copy of that letter for your information. One of the major purposes of these Guidelines was to effectively limit and control the issuance of compartmented clearances in order to protect our most vital intelligence collection assets.

Unfortunately, during this past year, the number of clearances have increased rather than decreased. We have, therefore, revised the Guidelines to include a new paragraph F which states that all requests for approvals of access to this type of material must be at the direction of a committee or subcommittee chairman and submitted by letter from that chairman to the department or agency involved.

I am enclosing a set of the new Guidelines for your information and use. I am also sending these Guidelines to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. I would be most happy to discuss this matter with you if you desire.

Sincerely,


Frederick P. Hitz
Legislative Counsel

Enclosures

Distribution:

Original - Addressee w/encl
1 - Subject - Committee file
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OLC/JMD:jmd (10 July 1979)

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Ind Subject

OLC 79-1826

26 JUN 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : Revision of "Guidelines and Procedures for the Issuance of Compartmented Clearances to the Legislative Branch"

1. Action Requested: That you approve the insertion of a new paragraph "F" in the Guidelines in order to tighten the procedures for obtaining SCI clearances by Legislative Branch personnel. (U/IUO)

2. Background: On 21 July 1978, you approved the Guidelines mentioned in subject (Tab A). These were distributed throughout the Community and to the Senate and House Leadership and formally established a centralized Community handling of requests for compartmented access approval for employees of the Legislative Branch. These Guidelines spell out (in paragraph C) the requirement for a letter from the committee Chairman to the department or agency involved fully stating the Congressional requirement. However, this paragraph applies only to requests involving personnel from GAO and the Library of Congress. Nowhere do the Guidelines spell out how a clearance for a staff person on a Congressional committee or subcommittee should be submitted. (U/IUO)

Since last July, due mainly to the SAL Treaty, we have had more than the usual number of requests for clearances. Since one of the purposes of centralizing Community handling of the requests was to decrease SCI clearances where possible and the opposite has occurred, we feel we must take steps to tighten the procedures and cause more focus on the reasons for the requests. We feel one way this can be accomplished is to require a letter from the chairman of the committee (or subcommittee) making such a request. There is no requirement for this to be in writing at present. We suggest that a new paragraph F at Tab B be inserted in the Guidelines spelling out in exact terms that a letter signed by the chairman must be sent requesting the clearances, and listing the specific reasons why the clearances are required. This will cause more focus by the chairman and staff director, and we hope the number of requests will be decreased. (U/IUO)

3. Staff Position: The Office of Security has been consulted and is in agreement with the attached revision to the Guidelines. (U/IUO)

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4. Recommendation: That you approve the attached revised Guidelines
(Tab A). (U/IUO)

F.P.H.
Frederick P. Hitz
Legislative Counsel

Attachments:
As Stated

APPROVED: SIGNED
Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED: _____
Director of Central Intelligence

DATE: 28 JUN 1979

Distribution:
Orig - Addressee w/atts
1 - OS w/atts
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OLC:JME:jms (21 June 79)

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Legislative Counsel

OLC 79-1826/M
25 July 1979

Mr. Jack Stempler
Assistant to the Secretary
of Defense
(Legislative Affairs)
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

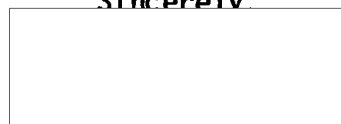
Dear Jack:

On 28 July 1978, I forwarded to you a set of Guidelines and Procedures for the Issuance of Compartmented Clearances to the Legislative Branch. The Guidelines were prompted by the Director's concern over the proliferation of access to sensitive intelligence information.

During this past year, the number of clearances have increased rather than decreased. In an effort to focus more attention by the Congress on who should obtain compartmented clearances, we have revised the Guidelines. We have inserted an additional paragraph (Paragraph F) which states that all requests for approvals of access to this type of material must be at the direction of a committee or subcommittee chairman and submitted by letter from that chairman to the department or agency involved.

I am enclosing a set of the new Guidelines for your information and use. I have sent the Guidelines to the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and to the chairmen of committees of Congress who have personnel cleared for compartmented information. I would be most happy to discuss this matter with you if you desire.

Sincerely



FREDERICK P. HITZ

Enclosure

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Orig - Addressee w/enc1
1 - OLC Subject
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